SEZ in Gopalpur, Orissa

1510. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Government has shown interest for establishing a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Gopalpur port area of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the projects proposed to be taken up by the British Government in the field of commerce and trade, education, health, construction of roads and development of ports, etc. with benefits accruing to the State for economic development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In principle approval has been granted for setting up of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Gopalpur to Government of Orissa on the basis of proposal received from them. However, no proposal has been received from the British Government for establishment of a SEZ in Gopalpur port area of Orissa.

New branches of ECGC

1511. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to open new branches of Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation;

(b) if so, the places where these are proposed to be opened to facilitate the exporters and by when;

(c) the allocation of funds for opening up these new branches; and

(d) the details of the attention which would be given to the exporters through these new branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) ECGC, a Government Undertaking, proposes to open satellite branch offices in centres like Chandigarh, Jodhpur, Rajkot, Noida,

Vishakhapatnam, Mangalore, Guntur, Vijayawada, Aligarh, Tuticorin and Karur over a period of time with a view to facilitating the exporters. The branches in Chandigarh, Rajkot, Jodhpur, Vishakhapatnam and Noida are expected to be opened by October, 2003.

(c) No funds have been provided by the Government for this purpose. ECGC will manage these branches from the resources available with the Organisation.

(d) At present there is a vast untapped potential in these major export centres and ECGC does not have its presence there. By opening of these branches, ECGC expects to provide better service to the exporters and bring in more business.

Marine export from Orissa

1512. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 170 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2003 and state the target set for export of marine products from Orissa and other coastal States during the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) A target of US $ 1376 million for the year 2003-04 has been fixed by the Government for the export of marine products. There is no system of fixing State-wise targets in this regard.

Germany's apprehensions on economic reforms

1513. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the German industry finds economic reforms in India too opaque to encourage high level of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the hurdles and misapprehensions which are standing in the way of India being a safe and viable FDI destination; and